

### A new race of Grass-Warbler.

Major F. O. CAVE sent the following description of a new race of Grass-Warbler :—

*CISTICOLA AYRESII imatong*, subsp. nov.

1. Type, a breeding male in Summer dress, in the British Museum, reg. no. 1938.8.5.1, collected by Capt. F. O. Cave, 29 April 1938, at 8000 ft. in the Imatong Mts., Equatorial Province of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, *ca.* Lat. 4° N., Long 33° E. Wing 52, tail 28.

Co-type, a breeding female in Summer dress, collected two days later at the same place; wing 48, tail 29; also in British Museum, reg. no. 1938.8.5.2.

2. **DESCRIPTION** of the race from a series of ten breeding males and females and five juveniles (May 1937, 8), and fifteen males and females in Winter dress or in pre-nuptial moult (Feb.) and post-nuptial moult (May).

**GENERAL.** The largest (least small) and most northerly ranging race yet known. Like its nearest neighbour, *C. AYRESII mauensis* of the Kenya highlands, inhabiting a highland massif. These two races separated by about two hundred miles of intervening country whose birds and environmental qualities are sufficiently well known to expect it being uninhabited by—unsuitable for—the **SPECIES**.

**SIZE.** Rather larger than any other *AYRESII*, quite noticeably so in the museum without a ruler, by the bill alone.

Ad. ♂. Wing  $52 \pm 1$ ; tail S.  $27 \pm 1$ , W.  $33 \pm 1$ .

Ad. ♀. Wing 48–49; tail S.  $30 \pm 2$ , W.  $29 \pm 2$ .

**RANGE.** Resident in the upper-zone of the Imatong Mountains, which, with other similar ranges forms one of the two large, isolated and high (*ca.* 10,000 ft.) massifs of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and extends across both sides of the Sudan-Uganda marches. Large expanses of mountain-grass, interspersed with tracts and groves of low “forest” are found in its upper zone.

C. AYRESII lives in the former and, as yet, no other *Cisticola* SPECIES has been found up there. Admiral Lynes, to whom I am indebted for the verification of this race, tells me that the other high Sudan massif, Jebel Marra, is still more isolated, and its upper-zone is quite different, both in environment and bird-kind, to that of the Imatong.

COLORATION. *Adults Summer*. Cf. *C. mauensis*. ABOVE, very like, but the rusty-buff of the feather-borders and rump of rather deeper shade : BELOW, the rusty-buff suffusions very much deeper and more widespread, only the chin and throat white.

*Adults Winter*. Cf. *C. ayresii* and *C. mauensis* not having a Winter (or eclipse) dress. ABOVE, the rusty-buff conspicuously darker, less bright : BELOW, the rusty-buff suffusions very much deeper and more widespread, even a little more so than in the Summer dress.

*Juveniles*. Like the other races in being well sulphured below, but the yellowness, except on chin and throat, very much deepened by its mixture with rusty-buff, as strong as in the adult dress.

MODE OF DRESS. The season, regular and perfect, apparently without exception.

BEHAVIOUR. Identical in all its essential characters with that of its SPECIES elsewhere.

SEASONS. March, pre-nuptial moult and begin breeding ; April–May mid-breeding ; June–July end of breeding, care of young and post-nuptial moult ; remainder of year, off-season.

These are different from those of other SPECIES of *Cisticola* inhabiting the Upper Nile Valley and plateau from which the Agoro massif rises.